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December 4, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist

RE: Site Inspection, U. S. Energy, Velvet Mine, M/037/040, San Juan County, Utah

Date of Inspection: October 7, 2003
Time of Inspection: 6:20 to 6:35 p.m.
Conditions: Mostly clear, 50's
Participants: Paul Baker, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

Since I last visited this site, there had been at least one significant rain storm, and I wanted to see how well the drainage control structures were functioning. I was concerned because there was no vegetation to help control erosion.

Observations:

In the ephemeral channel where the culvert was pulled from the road, there had been some erosion through the remaining fill (Photo 1). On the rest of the site, however, there had been very little rilling (Photos 2 and 3). There was sediment in some of the terraces, but considering that the site has no vegetation, it was minimal. A small amount of sediment had made it into the natural drainage just south of the site (Photo 3).

Conclusions and Recommendations:

At the time, the site still needed to be seeded, but I was told by the operator's representative, Fred Craft, that it was seeded the week of November 17, 2003, and that shortly afterward, there was a foot of snow.

It appears the soil has adequate rock to armor the surface and control erosion. In addition, the terraces reduce the slope length and channel water into natural drainages, and they appear to be functioning properly.

PBB:jb
cc: Ted McDougal, Monticello BLM
Fred Craft, U. S. Energy
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ATTACHMENT
Photographs
M/037/040, Velvet Mine, U. S. Energy
Inspection Dated: October 7, 2003; Report Dated: December 4, 2003

Photo 1. The place where the access road crossed a small drainage near the entrance to the mine.

Photo 2. One of the slopes on the waste pile. Although there is some rilling, it is minor.

Photo 3. The slope leading to the adjacent natural drainage.

Photo 4. The waste rock slope and one of the terraces.

Photo 5. Another of the terraces. This is sloped to allow water to drain to an adjacent natural drainage.

Photo 6. The top of the waste rock pile. Topsoil was spread in this area, but there was almost no topsoil available for the side slopes.